

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 AID-05 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5065
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
US MISSION GENEVA 431

UNCLAS SEOUL 5803

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN ROK

REF: (A) SEOUL 5708, (B) SEOUL 5178

1. BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO LANDED IN ROK JUNE 17 FROM SS JOHN MCCONE HAVE BEEN MOVED TO DIFFERENT QUARTERS IN KWANGJU, KOREA. CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED GROUP JUNE 7/8 TO HAVE THEM COMPLETE FORMS NECESSARY FOR PRE-SCREENING BY INS.

2. REFUGEES ARE NOW QUARTERED IN KOREAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE COMPOUND IN KWANGJU. QUARTERS APPEAR TO BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE, AND ALL NECESSITIES ARE BEING PROVIDED BY KOREAN RED CORSS. REFUGEES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH TV AND RADIO, AND HAVE ACCESS TO KOREAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS. MEMBERS OF GROUP MENTIONED THAT THEY ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE COMPOUND, BUT ONLY WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY KOREAN RED CROSS PERSONNEL. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN THE LOCAL RED CROSS HOSPITAL (ONE WITH MALARIA, TWO WITH FOOD POISONING), GROUP APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH.

3. THE GROUP'S MAJOR COMPLAINT CONCERNED THE DENIAL BY ROK
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AUTHORITIES OF PERMISSION CO COMMUNICATE WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, TRAN DUC PHONG, TOLD CONOFF THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WISHED TO WRITE TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN THE U.S., CANADA, AND FRANCE, BUT HAD BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TOTDO SO. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN REPORTED TO LOCAL UN REPRESENTATIVES WHO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

4. CONOFF EXPLAINED TO GROUP THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO GATHER BIOGRAPHIC AND BACKGROUND DATA FOR LATER USE BY INS. HE STRESSED HEAVILY THAT ANY DECISIONS CONCERNING ASYLUM IN THE U.S. WOULD BE MADE BY INS AT SOME FUTURE DATE. CONOFF FOUND THAT REFUGEES WERE ALREADY AWARE OF EFFORTS CURRENTLY BEING MADE TO ARRANGE FOR THE ADMISSION OF AN ADDITIONAL 15,000 REFUGEES TO THE U.S. HE INFORMED GROUP THAT SUCH A PROGRAM WAS STILL VERY TENUOUS, AND ADVISED THEM NOT TO PIN THEIR HOPES ON IT.

5. OF THE 38 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, 29 HAD ORIGINALLY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN GOING TO THE U.S. DURING CONOFF'S VISIT, AN ADDITIONAL 8 PERSONS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE U.S. (OF THIS SECOND GROUPBN 4 HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED RE-SETTLEMENT IN CANADA, AND 4 IN FRANCE.) VISAS FALCON MESSAGES WILL FOLLOW. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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